

JAZZ & BLUES

F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



FEATURE:
BLUES ARTIST

MARK TELESCA

JAZZ ARTISTS

JOE BATAAN • PASQUALE GRASSO
SIMONE KOPMAJER • KITTY OLIVER
JOHN PIZZARELLI • PETE ZIMMER

BLUES ARTISTS

HECTOR ANCHONDO • MISSY ANDERSEN
TINSLEY ELLIS • SONNY ROCK
WALTER PARKS • JONTAVIOUS WILLIS

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF HEIDI DELEUIL

MARK TELESKA - H

In the blues world, most people know Mark Telesca for being a bass player and the host of the popular Monday Night Jam held at the Funky Biscuit in Boca Raton. But there are some things you may not know about him

First of all, he consistently helps blues musicians who are traveling south to Florida. In many cases Mark helps touring blues bands find bookings on both coasts of Florida, finds musicians for bandleaders, and even finds himself playing bass for artists on occasion.

He and his wife Karene often let bands on tour crash at their home. There, they can catch up on their laundry, enjoy a good home-cooked meal and maybe even go for a swim. Telesca says, "Everyone is talking about how the blues scene seems to be thriving in Florida, especially during the winter festival season."

Secondly, Telesca is also an accomplished acoustic blues guitarist. He continues to study the many different styles of acoustic blues guitar, and performs solo acoustic blues sets at least three or four nights a week.

Telesca has just released his first solo acoustic blues CD. *Higher Vibrations* is a mix of his own original music and some pre-WWII blues



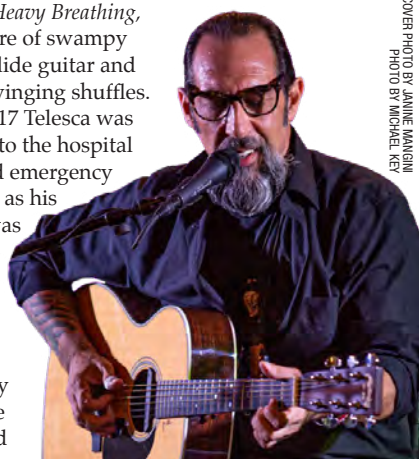
songs by such artists as Scrapper Blackwell, Leroy Carr, Mississippi Fred McDowell, Robert Johnson and more. He even throws in a song by Al Green for good measure.

and sang while someone recorded it." Telesca says. "I haven't done very much recording in my career and honestly, I don't think I am very good at it either. I'm usually surrounded by a whole group of people in the studio who know what they are doing, but this was different: no overdubs, no trying to make things perfect. It's just me and my guitar and we hit the record button much in the same way songs were recorded in hotel rooms back in the 1930s and 1940s."

The CD follows Telesca's prior release, 2015's *Heavy Breathing*, a mixture of swampy blues, slide guitar and hard-swinging shuffles.

In 2017 Telesca was rushed to the hospital and had emergency surgery as his colon was collapsing. After 10 days in the recovery room he was told

"It is the most organic thing I could ever think of doing. It was a wonderful day in the studio. I just sat down and played my guitar



COVER PHOTO BY JAMINE MANIGIN
PHOTO BY MICHAEL KENY

HOSTING THE JAM

MONDAYS
FUNKY BISCUIT
BOCA RATON

DUO
FEBRUARY 8
LOCH BAR
BOCA RATON

SOLO ACOUSTIC BLUES

TUESDAYS
LOCH BAR
BOCA RATON

FEBRUARY 7
DUBLINER IRISH PUB
BOCA RATON

FEBRUARY 12 AND 22
LEFTOVERS CAFE
JUPITER

FEBRUARY 13
BLUE JEAN BLUES
FT LAUDERDALE

FEBRUARY 15
SMOKE INN
DELRAY BEACH

FEBRUARY 20
NAKAVA BAR
BOCA RATON

MARK TELESKA BAND

FEBRUARY 21
RIPS
POMPANO BEACH

FEBRUARY 28
THE BARREL ROOM
FT MYERS

FEBRUARY 29
GRIND + GRAPE
VERO BEACH

BOOK LECTURES

FEBRUARY 24
THE INSTITUTE
FOR LEARNING
BOCA RATON

FEBRUARY 29
BROWARD COLLEGE
LIBRARY
COCONUT CREEK

HIGHER VIBRATIONS

that a tumor had attached itself to his colon, causing the collapse, and he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Then it was off to chemotherapy treatments, which took him out of the blues scene – and just about every other scene – for the better part of a year. It was during this time he started to work on his book, *Love Music - Hate Cancer*. "I needed something to look forward to and keep my mind occupied at all times," he explains.

After figuring out how to deal with the side effects of chemotherapy, Telesca had plenty of time to practice, write and reflect. He started to look at the time off as an opportunity. "The whole cancer thing is a life-changing experience," he says. "It was up to me to try to direct the changes that were coming in a positive direction."

Telesca does things his own way now. Many people told him not to put

out a solo record, telling him he'd never be a headliner as a solo artist. He brushes it off, "I just don't listen to that kind of stuff anymore. I never was the headliner anyway.... We all can't take the same path, we are all different and we all travel a different road. I do what feels right. It's not about being the headliner and I don't do things for the money. I am fortunate that I get to make my living as a full-time blues musician." Endorsed by the boutique instrument maker out of Texas, The Mark Telesca "Tradition" bass is available from Delaney Guitars. This recognition places him in the good company of fellow blues artists that play Delaney, including Albert Castiglia, Samantha Fish, Tommy Castro, Walter Trout, Tas Cru and David Julia. Telesca plans on touring this year to promote both the book and the new CD. More at marktelesca.com.



March 13 – 14th, 2020 14th Annual

Friday March 13

Damon Fowler & Friends

with special guest

Jonathan Long

Honey Island

Swamp Band

Tennessee Redemption

featuring

Brandon Santini

& Jeff Jensen

Pam Taylor & The Flying Vs

David Julia Band



Saturday March 14

Little Freddie King

James Harman

JP Soars'

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and Anne Harris

Tas Cru & His Band

of Tortured Souls

Robbin Kapsalis

and Vintage #18

McKinley James

After Parties Both Nights

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Sunday Blues & Bloodys

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FEBRUARY 20
LAGNIAPPE
MIAMI

FEBRUARY 21
LE CHAT
MIAMI

FEBRUARY 24
CHURCHILLS
MIAMI

Pete Zimmer

Since drummer Pete Zimmer moved to New York City in 2001, he has established himself as one of the top-call drummers in New York City's jazz scene. Originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, Zimmer has made his mark nationally and internation-

ally as a versatile and articulate drummer, bandleader, sideman, composer, educator, and record label entrepreneur. Since 2004, Zimmer has released five critically-acclaimed albums as a leader on his own record label, Tippin' Records. The albums showcase both his constant swing on the drums and his skillful and melodic compositions. Tippin' Records was originally established to feature his own projects, but after having much success with his first few releases, it did not take long for other artists to solicit their projects to Tippin'. In 2009 Zimmer decided to expand the catalogue and encompass additional artists. The growing label now has a total of one dozen releases and six artists. Zimmer's band has performed at numerous prominent jazz venues in NYC, and he has toured throughout much of the U.S. and the U.K. Highly regarded as an educator and clinician, Zimmer has presented clinics and master classes at many top collegiate jazz programs, and he has served on the faculty of the New York Jazz Academy since 2009. His most recent release as a leader was 2012's *Prime of Life*. As an active sideman, Zimmer can be heard on the latest recording by legendary bassist Ron McClure's trio, 2017's *Hope and Knowledge*. More at petezimmer.com.



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Hector Anchondo

With a finish in the finals at the 2016 International Blues Challenge and his masterful 2017 album *Roll the Dice* getting global radio play and riding the blues charts, Hector Anchondo is at long last surging to the forefront of the contemporary blues world. Growing up on a Missouri farm, Anchondo soaked up roots music, Latino music, bluegrass and old blues. After picking up the guitar as teen, the young guitarist started hitting Omaha jam nights as soon as he finished high school. Within only a couple of years, Anchondo had a song on local radio and a hot original Latin and reggae band with which he toured almost non-stop for the next 10 years. In 2008, Anchondo redirected his music to the blues he'd loved since childhood. The resulting EP *Kicking Up Dust* did well, as did *Young Guns* two years later. Omaha embraced Anchondo's new direction and his tight, powerful band and sent them to the International Blues Challenge twice. In 2015 they made the semi-finals; in 2016 they made the final nine. The band started sharing stages with the biggest names in blues, including Coco Montoya, Magic Slim and the Royal Southern Brotherhood. In 2017 Anchondo made his first major Florida appearance at the Bonita



Blues Fest. When he went into the studio to make *Roll The Dice*, Amanda Fish joined him for what would be the opening track. The album leaped to the top of blues charts, and spent weeks on the Roots Music Report blues and blues rock charts. At press time, Anchondo was representing the Blues Society of Omaha in the 2020 International Blues Challenge. More at hectoranchondo.com.

FEBRUARY 8
OVER THE BRIDGE
PORT ST. LUCIE

FEBRUARY 9
CENTER BAR
BONITA SPRINGS

FEBRUARY 11
FUNKY BISCUIT
BOCA RATON

FEBRUARY 14
LITTLE BAR
GOODLAND

FEBRUARY 15
BARREL ROOM
FORT MYERS

FEBRUARY 17
SEVILLE QUARTER
PENSACOLA

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- Feb 8 Bradfordville Blues Club, Tallahassee
- Feb 12 Rohan Rec Center, The Villages
- Feb 13 Earl's Hideaway, Sebastian
- Feb 14 The Barrel Room, Fort Myers
- Feb 26 Double Roads Tavern, Jupiter
- Feb 28 Over the Bridge, Port Charlotte
- Feb 29 The Blue Rooster, Sarasota

Albums: *WORLD FULL OF TROUBLE* (featuring Samuel Adams)

Logos: Tina Terry Agency, Anne Bello Productions, Eller Soul Records



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Simone Kopmajer

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LADY LAKE

FEBRUARY 21-22
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB
COCOA BEACH

FEBRUARY 23
BLUE BAMBOO
WINTER PARK

Born in Schladming, Austria, Simone Kopmajer already achieved at a young age what many musicians, bands and ensembles dream of – the launch of a successful international career. In the U.S., Japan and southeast Asia, the singer is a household name for lovers of demanding and refined jazz music. She began singing at age eight, and at twelve she sang in the band of her father, a music school director and a big jazz fan. At 16 she was accepted to the prestigious University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Graz. Kopmajer's role models include Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and Jon Hendricks, although over time she has slowly

detached herself from these influences to find her own musical language. Her sound is located somewhere between jazz, swing and tasteful pop. Although her music is very relaxed, flowing and elegant, it is also very playful and varied. Kopmajer's 2000 U.S. debut left a lasting impression among connoisseurs of contemporary jazz music, and her 2004 debut album *Moonlight Serenade* and its three successors predated what has been the largest success of Kopmajer's career to date. 2012's *Nothing's Gonna Change* sold more than 30,000 units in Thailand, putting her at the top of the list of the best-selling jazz albums of the year. Live at Heidi's Jazz Club was also recorded and released in 2012, cementing her Florida connection. Her new CD, *My Favorite Songs*, is a best-of compilation. It follows *Spotlight on Jazz*, which hit No. 1 on the HMV Japan Jazz Chart. More at simonekopmajer.com.

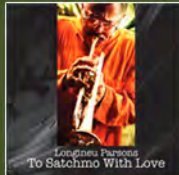


FROM A PHOTO BY TINA REITER

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Jontavious Willis

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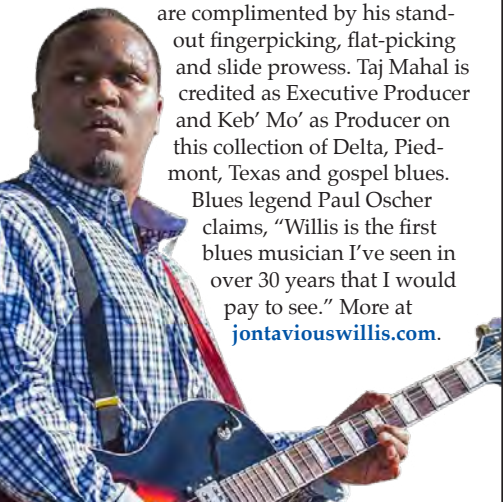
FEBRUARY 8
JANNUS LIVE
ST PETERSBURG

FEBRUARY 22
PHILLIPS CENTER
GAINESVILLE

Every generation or so, a young bluesman bursts onto the scene and sends a jolt through the blues community. Jontavious Willis has that effect on people. Hailing from Greenville, Georgia, Willis grew up singing gospel music. At the age of 14, he came across a video of Muddy Waters playing

“Hoochie Coochie Man” and was instantly hooked on the blues. He got his much-needed break from living legend Taj Mahal, who says of Willis, “That’s my Wonderboy, the Wunderkind. Jontavious is a great new voice of the 21st century in the acoustic blues.” In 2015, Mahal asked Willis to play on stage with him, an appearance that quickly led Willis to bigger stages and broader opportunities, including an opening slot at select shows along the TajMo tour, featuring his musical mentors Taj Mahal and Keb’ Mo’. Willis’s voice and style of playing reach to the very roots of country blues. A newspaper once called him a “70-year-old bluesman in a 20-year-old body.” Willis’ debut album, 2016’s *Blue Metamorphosis* garnered rave reviews and received the Best Self-Produced CD Award at the 2018 International Blues Challenge. Now on *Spectacular Class*, Willis’ self-penned lyrics and dynamic vocals are complemented by his stand-

out fingerpicking, flat-picking and slide prowess. Taj Mahal is credited as Executive Producer and Keb’ Mo’ as Producer on this collection of Delta, Piedmont, Texas and gospel blues. Blues legend Paul Oscher claims, “Willis is the first blues musician I’ve seen in over 30 years that I would pay to see.” More at jontaviouswillis.com.



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 Vestapolitans
 Tas Cru & His Band
 of Tortured Souls
 Dustin Arbuckle &
 the Damnations
 Bill Wharton the
 Sauce Boss
 Joel DaSilva Band
 Gabe Stillman Band
 Eliza Neals &
 the Narcotics

Jam to Follow

SUNDAY, MARCH 22:

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 with Harper
 Deb Ryder Band
 Harper & Midwest Kind
 James Armstrong Band

Jam to Follow



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John Pizzarelli

FEBRUARY 12
GOLD COAST
JAZZ SOCIETY
BROWARD CENTER
FT LAUDERDALE

“Nat King Cole is the reason why I do what I do,” comments John Pizzarelli. “The joy that he brought me has never faded and the musicality

of his group remains fresh and vibrant to this day.” Pizzarelli recently released his new album, *For Centennial Reasons: 100 Year Salute to Nat King Cole*. Following high-profile collaborations with Sir Paul McCartney and Michael McDonald, Pizzarelli returns to his roots to honor his hero, the legendary jazz/pop vocalist and pianist Nat King Cole, whose centennial is being celebrated around the world this year with various concerts, books and recordings. *For Centennial Reasons...* completes an epic trio of Pizzarelli albums saluting Cole, including 1994’s *Dear Mr. Cole* and 1999’s *P.S. Mr. Cole*. “The trio has developed and refined these songs and, over time, figured out what we feel have become the definitive versions. Some arrangements, like ‘Route 66,’ have gotten much faster. But ‘Straighten Up and Fly Right,’ which I recorded for my first album way back in 1983, has settled into more of a mellow tone. After all this time, I can slow down and savor it. These songs never get old.” Pizzarelli has appeared on more than 40 albums by other recording artists. A radio personality since 1984, he is also the co-host, alongside his wife Jessica Molaskey, of Radio Deluxe with John Pizzarelli, available on more than 40 radio stations and online. More at johnpizzarelli.com.



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FEBRUARY 16
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MARCH 1
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Eddy's Acoustic Soul 6-9pm
1818 Young Circle, Hollywood

15: Dwtwn Hollywood Artwalk
Live Art & Music 6pm-11pm
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Eddy Balzola Duo @ Cuenca
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Jan 31: Papaloko 1pm
Jesse Jones Jr. 3:30pm
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Spam Allstars 6pm
Suenalo 8pm
Carlos Oliva y los Sobrinos del Juez 9:30pm
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Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

Walter Parks

Storyteller, composer, guitarist and vocalist Walter Parks has built an international career as the lead guitarist for Woodstock legend Richie Havens, half of the folk-duo the Nudes, and leader of the southern swamp-blues group Swamp Cabbage. After 30 years in the music industry, he marked his debut as a solo artist with the release of his self-titled album in 2011. Most recently Walter has been working on a new Americana album with his group The Unlawful Assembly with Steven Williams. Inspired by the swampy gospel blues that wails from the southeast Georgia low country, Parks' music is full of boot-stomping, guitar-strumming tunes that explore matters of the soul and spirit, built upon a foundation of jazz and folk. *Swamp by Chandelier*, Parks' one-man solo guitar production, is a soundtrack to the swamp, a metaphor for everyday life, in celebration of beauty and edge living side-by-side. It contains mostly Parks' own compositions interwoven with a few related and inspired exceptions. After researching the Library of Congress' historic music collection, Parks transcribed and modernized the hollers and reels of the "cracker" folk



WITH SWAMP CABBAGE

FEBRUARY 14
LUNA STAR CAFE
NORTH MIAMI

FEBRUARY 16
BLUE JAY
LISTENING ROOM
JACKSONVILLE
BEACH

FEBRUARY 22
HEARTWOOD
MUSIC FEST
GAINESVILLE

FEBRUARY 23
BRADFORDVILLE
BLUES CLUB
TALLAHASSEE

who lived in the Okefenokee Swamp before it became a national wildlife refuge. The live solo acoustic CD *Cathedral* was released in 2016. Parks is also the driving force behind Swamp Cabbage, the group he formed in 2001 as a means of exploring his southern musical influences. Parks, with drummer Jagoda, has released four CDs, *Honk*, *Squeal*, *Drum Roll Please* (live) and 2016's *Five*. More at walterparks.com.

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MARCH 10	ENGLEWOOD	ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN
MARCH 11	THE VILLAGES	ROHAN CENTER
MARCH 13	FORT PIERCE	BOTTOMS UP PUBLIC HOUSE
MARCH 15	BONITA SPRINGS	CENTER BAR
MARCH 17	CORAL GABLES	FRITZ & FRANZ BIERHAUS
MARCH 18	BRADENTON	BRADENTON WOMENS CLUB
MARCH 19	FORT MYERS	THE BARREL ROOM
MARCH 21	SARASOTA	THE BLUE ROOSTER
MARCH 22	GOODLAND	THE LITTLE BAR
MARCH 24	ENGLEWOOD	ENGLEWOODS ON DEARBORN
MARCH 26	JUPITER	DOUBLE ROADS TAVERN
MARCH 27	TALLAHASSEE	BRADFORDVILLE BLUES CLUB

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IRA STANLEY & CHECKERED PAST
TOMMY LEE COOK & THE HEATHENS W/PANACHE

FEB 22
BACKYARD BLUESFEST
• CHRIS O'LEARY BAND
• BRUCE KATZ BAND
TOMMY LEE COOK & THE HEATHENS W/PANACHE

FEB 28
JP SOARS & THE RED HOTS

FEB 29
BACKYARD BLUESFEST
• NIKKI HILL
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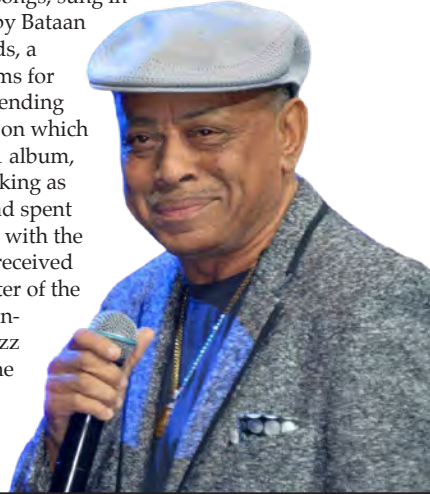
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FEBRUARY 14
ARTIME THEATER
MIAMI

Joe Bataan

Bataan Nitollano grew up in East Harlem, where he briefly led a local Puerto Rican street gang before being sent to jail. Upon his release in 1965, he formed his first band, Joe Bataan and the Latin Swingers. Influenced by the musical styles of Latin boogaloo and African American doo-wop, Bataan's 1967 debut *Gypsy Woman* was the first of eight original titles for Fania Records. These albums often mixed energetic Latin dance songs, sung in Spanish, with slower, English-language soul ballads sung by Bataan himself. Before leaving Fania, Bataan started Ghetto Records, a Latin music label, for which Bataan produced several albums for other artists. In 1973, he helped coin the phrase "salsoul", lending its name to his first post-Fania album and the Salsoul label on which he released three albums and several singles. After his 1981 album, *Bataan II*, he retired from music-making and ended up working as a youth counselor in one of the reformatories he himself had spent time in as a teenager. In 2005, Bataan ended his long hiatus with the release of the well-received *Call My Name*. In 2013, Bataan received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society. Bataan continues to perform and record on his own and with a host of jazz notables, and in 2017 he collaborated with Spanglish Fly, the boogaloo revival group, to record "New York Rules." A remix of the song is included on the soundtrack to the 2019 TV series *She's Gotta Have It*. Find him on [Facebook](#).



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Missy Andersen

FEBRUARY 25
BLUE TAVERN
TALLAHASSEE

Along with her bandleader /guitarist/husband Heine Andersen, Missy Andersen has released two blues

collections that go straight to the spirit... and body. She was exposed to her parent's extensive music collection as a child, and began fronting bands at local venues as a teen. Soon Andersen was booking studio sessions and performances as a background vocalist. She continued honing her skills and moved to San Diego where she met Heine, a seasoned musician visiting from Denmark. They would eventually marry and form the band Tell Mama. But they soon struck out on their own, touring Europe for several years, recording the rhythm tracks for their debut CD, *Missy Andersen*, in Copenhagen between performances. The 11 varied tracks on its followup, 2014's *In the Moment*, include eight originals, five of which are penned by the Andersens. The track list swings from Chicago to New Orleans to Memphis, with lots of stops in between. The CD maintained a steady presence on multiple Roots Music Report album and song charts, and was named one of Living Blues Radio Charts Top 50 Albums of 2014. Later that year, the duo were disqualified from competing in the International Blues Competition because Missy received a 2015 Blues Music

Award nomination (for Soul Blues Female Artist, she was nominated again in 2016). IBC registrants cannot appear on a final ballot of the BMAs; it was the first time a contestant was disqualified since the rule was instated. Says Andersen, "A BMA nomination is a good problem to have." Indeed. More at missyandersen.com.



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FEBRUARY 12
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Kitty Oliver

She is a veteran journalist and academic, an author and oral historian, a media producer, and a professional singer with an MFA in Creative Writing, specializing in literary nonfiction and memoir, and a Ph.D. in Comparative Studies, focusing on race and ethnic communication. Dr. Kitty Oliver is a product of the civil rights era who came of age with integration in the U.S., and she brings an innovative perspective to race and ethnic relations sharing research and stories across cultures in Race and Change dialogues where people can explore race in a hopeful, progressive way. She is founder of the cross-cultural Race and Change Oral History Archive, the largest of its kind in size and scope, housed in Special Collections at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center. Her books and television documentaries are used widely in public schools, college classrooms, and community forums. She has also assembled an online resource of Race and Change programs for youth including an iTunes radio channel featuring stories of scores of native-born and immigrant college students and teens. In 2019, she presented the first Agents of Race and Change Award, to encourage today's youth who are building bridges across the racial and ethnic divide. Her cross-cultural intergenerational race and ethnic relations work has been chronicled by CNN. You can hear her original inspirational music on *The*

Calling of Our Time. More at
kittyoliveronline.com.



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Tinsley Ellis

FEBRUARY 14
WITH J.L. FULKS
KELSEY THEATRE
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FEBRUARY 16
THE ALLEY
SANFORD

Since he first hit I-75 north out of Fort Lauderdale 40 years ago, blues-rock guitar virtuoso, soulful vocalist and prolific songwriter Tinsley Ellis has grown his worldwide audience one scorching performance at a time. Ellis considers his new album, *Ice Cream In Hell*, the most raw-sounding, guitar-drenched album of his career – a cathartic blast of blues-rock power on 11 Ellis

originals. In addition to his legions of fans, Ellis is also revered by fellow guitarists, with Derek Trucks, Jonny Lang, Buddy Guy and Gov't Mule inviting him to sit in and jam. He's toured with Tommy Castro, Coco Montoya, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Leon Russell and others. Born in Atlanta, Ellis was raised in south Florida. He acquired his first guitar at age seven, before discovering the blues through the back doors of the British Invasion and Southern rock. As a teen, he joined local blues band the Alley Cats before teaming up with Chicago Bob Nelson in 1981 to form The Heartfixers. But after cutting a few Heartfixers albums, Ellis was ready to head out on his own. In the mid-'80s, Ellis started releasing CDs every two or three years. In 2018, *Winning Hand* debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Blues Chart, with the CD and Ellis combined earning three Blues Music Award nominations. "A musician never got famous staying home," says Ellis, who continues to perform over 150 nights a year. Now, with *Ice Cream In Hell*, Tinsley Ellis is once again hitting the road, bringing his roof-raising, road-tested music to fans wherever they may be. More at tinsleyellis.com.



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- 2.08 Goodland FL
Little Bar
- 2.09 Sebastian FL
Earl's Hideaway
- 2.10 Boca Raton FL
Funky Biscuit
- 2.12 Ft. Lauderdale FL
Kelly Brothers

- 2.15 Port Charlotte FL
Over the Bridge Concerts
- 2.16 W. Palm Beach FL
Clematis by Night
- 3.14 Bonita Springs FL
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- 3.15 Delray Beach FL
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- 3.18 & 19 Gulf Breeze FL
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Pasquale Grasso

It was the kind of endorsement most rising guitarists could only dream of. In his interview for *Vintage Guitar* magazine's February 2016 cover story, Pat Metheny remarked, "The best guitar player I've heard in maybe my entire life is floating around now, Pasquale Grasso," said the jazz-guitar icon and NEA Jazz Master. "This guy is doing something so amazingly musical and so difficult." Metheny has since become a generous presence in Grasso's life, and his assessment of Grasso's playing is—no surprise—spot-on. Born and raised in a bucolic hillside town in Italy's Campania region, the Grasso family home was filled with jazz and classical sounds. "Instead of watching TV

at night," Grasso recalls, "my dad would put on a Chet Baker record and we'd listen." His older brother, alto saxophonist Luigi Grasso, tours globally as a bandleader and collaborator. Pasquale has developed an astounding technique and concept informed not by jazz guitarists so much as by bebop pioneers like Powell, Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie and the classical guitar tradition. In 2012, the same year that Pasquale toured extensively as a Jazz Ambassador on behalf of the U.S. Embassy, the guitarist relocated to New York. In 2015, he won the Wes Montgomery International Jazz Guitar Competition in NYC. His new digital-only EP series showcases Grasso in the solo guitar format, where his intensive studies of both mid-century jazz and classical meld into a signature mastery that is, remarkably, at once unprecedented and evocative. More at pasqualegrasso.com.



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This project is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida (Section 286.25, Florida Statutes).

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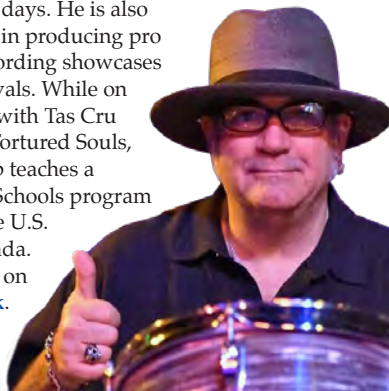


Sonny Rock

Hailing from Long Island, New York, Sonny Rock moved to Los Angeles in the early 1980s. There played in bands like Billy Wirth's Dust n' Bones, and was house drummer at top Hollywood clubs including The House of Blues and Whiskey A GoGo, performing behind top artists including Robin Trower, Pat Travers and Heart. In 2010, Sonny began splitting his time between LA and New York to facilitate frequent touring with Tas Cru, The Smokin' Aces, The Torpedos and other bands. Until recently, Rock hosted Local Licks, a weekly radio show from WRIP in Windham, NY presenting music and interviews with local, regional and national developing artists. He currently serves as one of only a handful of New

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ENGLEWOOD
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OVER THE BRIDGE
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- FEBRUARY 16
CLEMATIS BY NIGHT
WEST PALM BEACH

York Blues Hall of Fame Ambassadors, and has repeatedly served as judge for the International Blues Challenge and the Hudson Valley Voice Competition. After Hurricane Irene, Rock created and produced the Benefit Concert for the Catskills featuring 35 bands over two days. He is also involved in producing pro jams, recording showcases and festivals. While on the road with Tas Cru and the Tortured Souls, the group teaches a Blues in Schools program across the U.S. and Canada. Find him on Facebook.



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Heidi Deleuil

by Bill Meredith



Long before 79-year-old Heidi Deleuil died on January 18 after a long illness, she'd earned fame within Florida's jazz community.

She was the co-owner, along with husband/chef Edmund Deleuil, of the Heidelberg

Restaurant and adjacent Heidi's Jazz Club in Cocoa Beach. The restaurant opened in 1986; the club in 1992, after the couple moved from Austria in 1985.

Both establishments developed top-shelf reputations. Edmund worked at some of the finest restaurants in Austria and Germany, and Heidelberg's continental cuisine earned rave food critic reviews.

Heidi's father hosted jam sessions in the 1950s in Vienna, some featuring legendary Austrian keyboardist Joe Zawinul (Miles Davis, Weather Report), which helped fuel the couple's impetus to add live music.

Through its namesake's attention to detail and nurturing of the Cocoa Beach arts scene, Heidi's thrived. *DownBeat* voted it one of the world's top jazz venues in 2013. Heidi not only welcomed creative jazz artists domestic and international, but encouraged area students to perform at Sunday open jams, and confidently helped nearby establishments get started despite their inherent competition.

Perhaps that rare vision -- of long-term music and arts scene success over short-term profits -- is Heidi's most enduring legacy, one exemplified by a recent Heidi's online post.

"As we prepare for services, which will take place in March so all of our friends and family can join us, we ask that you celebrate her life by donating in her honor to the music scholarship programs of Cocoa Beach Jr. / Sr. High School and Satellite Beach High School." Visit heidisjazzclub.com/donation.